

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L NOFORN USNATO 6953

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BEXP, MILI, NATO

SUBJ: FIRST MEETING OF NATO AWACS STEERING COMMITTEE ON 17 JAN

REF: AC/259-DS/14 (FINAL) PARA V(D)

SECDEF FOR ODDR&E (BASIL, EAGLET AND LARIMER);

CSAF FOR RDQSD

BEGIN SUMMARY: MISOFF MET SEPARATELY WITH UK AND CANADIAN NADREPS TO DISCUSS BACKGROUND AND POSITIONS FOR SUBJECT MEETING. UK NADREP FAVORED MULTI-NATIONAL APPROACH WITH 4-6 NATIONS WHO ARE WILLING AND ABLE TO PARTICIPATE. HE ASKED IF US WOULD CONSIDER PROVIDING "OFFSET" FOR UK BOP DEFICIT FROM PARTICIPATION. CANADIAN NADREP STATED CANADA NOT LIKELY TO PARTICIPATE IN EUROPEAN PROGRAM BUT MIGHT PARTICIPATE IN "GLOBAL" SYSTEM. END SUMMARY.

1. USNATO AWACS ACTION OFFICER (COL R.G. JENKS) MET INFORMALLY WITH UK NADREP (W.A. PERRY) ON 12 DEC AND CANDIAN NADREP (E.A. COOLEN) ON 13 DEC, AT THEIR REQUEST, TO DISCUSS PREPARATIONS FOR CONFIDENTIAL

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THE 17 JAN 75 MEETING OF THE AWACS STEERING COMMITTEE. CANADIAN NADREP WILL BE CANADIAN REP ON THE STEERING COMMITTEE, AT LEAST FOR THE FIRST MEETING. BOTH WERE INTERESTED IN SCOPE OF WORK FOR THE STEERING COMMITTEE, ASSESSING AND RECOMMENDING POSSIBLE

POSITIONS ON FUNDING AND MANAGEMENT FOR THEIR CAPITALS, AND ESPECIALLY IN THE US POSITION. IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT UK NADREP WAS WELL INFORMED AND HAD SOME GUIDANCE; ALSO THAT CANADA WAS JUST STARTING TO THINK SERIOUSLY ABOUT THE SUBJECT.

2. MISOFF EXPLAINED THAT FORMAL US POSITION FOR STEERING GROUP WAS UNDER DEVELOPMENT; HOWEVER US PREFERENCE FROM THE START HAS BEEN TO TREAT NATO AWACS SYSTEM, AT LEAST CONCEPTUALLY, AS AN EXTENSION TO NADGE WITH COMMON "INFRASTRUCTURE-LIKE" CAPITAL FUNDING AND POSSIBLE COMMON O&M (PERHAPS ALONG THE LINES OF NAMSA). MISOFF VENTURED OPINION THAT US WOULD NOT AUTOMATICALLY RULE OUT OTHER ARRANGEMENTS THAT HAD MERIT, ESPECIALLY IF FAVORED BY A MAJORITY.

3. UK NADREP STATED THAT "COMMON" APPROACH TO FUNDING AND MANAGEMENT WAS WRONG WAY TO GO AND WOULD INTRODUCE PROHIBITIVE DELAYS AND COMPLICATIONS, AND RECOMMENDED MULTI-LATERAL ARRANGEMENT (NPLO) AMONG 4-6 NATIONS WHO WERE WILLING AND ABLE TO SUPPORT THE PROGRAM. IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER THIS IS HIS PERSONAL OPINION OR A UK POSITION. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT UK WAS VERY INTERESTED IN AWACS BUT THAT KEY TO UK PARTICIPATION IN NATO AWACS AND/OR SELECTION OF AWACS AS NATIONAL SYSTEM WAS LIKELY TO BE IMPACT OF COST ON UK BOP RATHER THAN AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS PER SE. HE ASKED WHAT US WAS WILLING TO DO IN THE WAY OF OFFSET TOWARD INCREASED BOP PROBLEMS CAUSED BY UK PARTICIPATION. MISOFF DEFERRED.

4. CANADIAN NADREP STATED THAT CANADA WOULD PROBABLY NOT PARTICIPATE IN A STRICTLY EUROPEAN NATO AWACS PROGRAM, BUT MIGHT PARTICIPATE IN A "GLOBAL" SYSTEM, WHICH HE ROUGHLY DEFINED AS COVERING NORTH AMERICA, THE NORTHERN ATLANTIC AND NATO AREAS OF INTEREST; HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO SELL THE PROGRAM IN CANADA EVEN IF THE "GLOBAL" SYSTEM WERE IMPERFECT, I.E., GAPS IN THE NORTH ATLANTIC, BUT THAT IT WAS VERY DOUBTFUL IF CANADA COULD MUSTER SUPPORT FOR A EUROPEAN NATO AWACS ON THE BASIS OF CANADA'S LIMITED GROUND AND AIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CENTRAL REGION.

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5. ALL AGREED THAT FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS AND TOP PRIORITY FOR THE STEERING COMMITTEE SHOULD BE THE FUNDING AND MANAGEMENT QUESTION; THAT EFFORT AND RESPONSE TIME WOULD BE SERIOUSLY DILUTED IF GROUP ATTEMPTED TO TACKLE ALL OF THE SUBJECTS AND PROBLEMS LISTED IN CNAD DECISION (REF DOC).

6. ANTICIPATE NUMBER OF SIMILAR INQUIRIES FROM NATIONAL DELEGATIONS AS 17 JAN. MEETING NEARS. REQUEST GUIDANCE ON RELEASABLE INFORMATION CONCERNING US POSITION OF PREFERENCES. THIS COULD BE GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO STIMULATE NATIONAL THINKING AND PREPARATIONS, RESULTING IN MORE PRODUCTIVE MEETING. BRUCE

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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